Liquor supply to armed forces

1045. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies stopped supplies of liquor to armed forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure uninterrupted supply to liquor to armed forces particularly those posted in forward areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of answer at (a) above.

Acquisition of warships from Russia

1046. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to acquire three warships from Russia; and

(b) if so, the date of delivery of these ships to India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two ships have already been delivered and third is likely to be delivered by September, 2003.

Performance of the recent test firing of various missiles

1047. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many test firing of various types of missiles have taken place in this year;

(b) what is the level of success of these missile testing;

(c) what type of missiles are being inducted into the armed forces after successful trials; and